

2006

Montana Hunting Regulations

DEER ELK ANTELOPE



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JOHN R. FORD



What's New?

See page 2 for details

- SuperTags
- Licenses Discount Opportunities
- Hunting District Boundary Changes
- Game Damage Hunter Roster Rules
- Elk Youth Hunt Opportunities—Qualifying ages

Don't Forget:

- Apply for special licenses online

BULL ELK BY NICK FUCCI



Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks

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Introduction To Hunting In Montana

Welcome to Montana's 2006 hunting season! Montana's hunting and fishing license year is March 1, 2006 – February 28, 2007.

This hunting regulations booklet contains information you need to know for a safe and legal hunting experience. It is your responsibility to know the regulations before you hunt.

Below are key topics in the order in which they are presented. Please refer to the index for detailed page listings.

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Regulations Adopted by FWP Commission

These regulations are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission (FWPC) in MCA 87-1-301 and are valid March 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007. These regulations were adopted by the FWPC on February 21, 2006. However, season quotas are tentative and may be subject to FWPC changes. The FWPC reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. M. Jeff Hagener, Director.

State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in

any Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

What's New?

- **SuperTags** – Beginning this year, resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, as well as deer and elk. An individual may be successful in winning one or a combination of these SuperTags per year. Each SuperTag license allows one to hunt in any Montana hunting district valid for that species. Chances are sold electronically at all FWP License Providers or via the Internet. Proceeds from the sale of SuperTag chances will enhance public hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts. For more information visit FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov.
- **License Discount Opportunities** –
 - Montana resident members of the Montana National Guard, Federal Reserve or Active Duty, who participated between September 11, 2001 through February 28, 2006, in a contingency operation outside the state for six months and have been released from active duty or discharged, are entitled to a free conservation license or a sportsman w/o bear license for a fee of \$29. These licenses will be issued only at FWP offices. DD 214 and supporting documentation is required.
 - A veteran with certain combat-connected injuries may be entitled to half-priced licenses for deer and antelope. Up to 50 licenses will be issued annually. Contact FWP License Bureau for details at 406-444-2663.
 - Nonresidents who hold a current upland game bird license, big game combination or deer combination license may purchase a nonresident turkey license for \$55.
 - 300 Nonresident Youth Big Game Combination Licenses will be issued first-come, first-served beginning March 1 to nonresident youth who have an adult immediate family member who possesses a current resident deer or elk license or a nonresident big game or deer combination license. Applications are available from FWP's website and will be processed at the FWP headquarters in Helena.
 - Nonresident children of residents may be entitled to reduced rate licenses for up to six years from the date they received their diploma or GED. To qualify the child must have: 1) been born and raised in Montana; 2) attended and completed high school or attained a GED in Montana; and 3) the parent(s) still reside in Montana. Licenses will be issued at FWP offices with verification of Birth Certificate, Montana high school diploma or GED, and proof that natural or adoptive parent is still a current Montana resident.
- **Hunting District Boundary Changes** – Deer/Elk HDs 301, 311, 312, 335, 339, 343, 380, 390 and 393. Antelope HD 318.
- **Game Damage Hunter Roster Rules** – FWP will finalize, in June, new procedures for establishing game damage hunt rosters. Please visit the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov or check with any FWP office after July 1.
- **Special Youth Elk Hunts** – Youth 12 through 15 years of age may hunt elk as designated by "Only youth ages 12-15" in the regulations. See "Special Youth Elk Hunts" section for a listing of hunting districts and details.

Don't Forget – You can apply for special licenses online at fwp.mt.gov. Click on Online Applications listed under Online Services.

Check the FWP website – for late changes by the FWP Commission.

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Continued on page 7

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Licenses Available Chart

Required Prerequisite

one or more of these may be required in order to purchase other licenses

Type of License	License Specifics	Cost	Deadline
Conservation - Resident	Resident prerequisite for all licenses. Includes the state lands license (for hunting, fishing and trapping). Residents 12-14 years of age and 62 or older need only a conservation license to fish and to hunt migratory birds and upland game birds, excluding turkey. Also allows a resident who is a Legion of Valor member, regardless of age, to fish.	R \$8	
Conservation - Nonresident	Nonresident prerequisite for all licenses. Includes the state lands license (for hunting, fishing and trapping). Also allows a nonresident who is a Legion of Valor member, regardless of age, to fish.	NR \$10	
Conservation - Disabled Resident	Residents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by FWP rules, must purchase this license annually which authorizes fishing, hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey and migratory birds, the purchase of deer A license for \$6.50 and elk for \$8 and includes a State Lands license (for hunting, fishing and trapping).	R \$8	
Bow and Arrow (Archery)	Required for Archery Only Season and/or areas. Specific rules apply to purchase a bow and arrow license.	R \$10 NR \$10	
Hunting Access Enhancement Fee	This is an annual fee and will be charged at the time the hunter purchases his/her first hunting license (including upland and migratory bird).	R \$2 NR \$10	

Resident Only

Type of License	License Specifics	Cost	Deadline
Deer A	Montana residents 12-14 years of age or holders of a disabled resident conservation license, may purchase a deer A license for \$6.50. Residents 62 years and older may purchase this license for \$10.	R \$16	
Elk	Montana residents 12-14 years of age or holders of a disabled resident conservation license may purchase a license for \$8. Residents 62 years and older may purchase this license for \$12.	R \$20	
Elk A7 License	Deadline to apply is June 1. General elk license is a required prerequisite. Deadline to exchange general elk license for an A7 license is September 1.	*R \$9	Jun 01/Sep 01
Elk A9 License - Limited	Allows for the taking of a second antlerless elk in designated areas. General elk license a required prerequisite. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*R \$25	Jun 01
Elk A9 License - Unlimited	Allows for the taking of a second antlerless elk in designated areas. General elk license a required prerequisite. Purchase at License Providers.	R \$20	
Hound Training License	Allows a Montana resident to train hounds during the hound training season without a mountain lion license. See mountain lion hunting regulations for specifics.	R \$5	
Sportsman's (Including Bear)	Includes a conservation, state lands, deer A, elk, and black bear license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland birds, excluding turkey. Deadline for Spring black bear is April 14 and August 31 for Fall black bear.	R \$85	Apr 14/Aug 31
Sportsman's (Without Bear)	Includes a conservation, state lands, deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland birds, excluding turkey. Residents 62 years and older may purchase this license for \$55. Military members discharged or released from active duty that participated in a contingency operation outside the state for six months may purchase this license at FWP offices for \$29. See page 2 for details.	R \$70	
Youth Combination Sports	Includes conservation, state lands, fishing, upland game bird, excluding turkey, deer A and elk licenses. Available only to Montana residents 12-17 years of age. Any Montana youth 12 through 17 years of age who successfully completed a hunter safety and education course, who is purchasing his or her first hunting license, is entitled to receive a Resident Youth Combination Sports License free of charge.	R \$25	
Youth Upland Game Bird	Available only to Montana residents 15-17 years of age.	R \$3	

* Cost includes \$5 drawing fee

NonResident Only

Type of License	License Specifics	Cost	Deadline
Big Game (Elk/Deer) Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. 11,500 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$643	Mar 15
Big Game (Elk/Deer) Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 15.	NR \$995	Mar 15
Deer Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. 2,300 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$343	Mar 15

Licenses Available Chart

NonResident Only

Deer Combination (Landowner Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands, and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Landowner certificates should be obtained from your landowner sponsor. 2,000 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$343	Mar 15
Deer Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 15.	NR \$795	Mar 15
Elk Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. This license is included in the 11,500 quota of big game elk/deer combination license. Deadline to apply is March 15.	**NR \$593	Mar 15
Elk Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 15.	NR \$895	Mar 15
Elk B12 License - Limited	Allows for the taking of a second antlerless elk in designated areas. General elk license a required prerequisite. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*NR \$275	Jun 01
Upland Game Bird 3-Day Preserve	Valid only on state-licensed private shooting preserve.	NR \$20	

* Cost includes \$5 drawing fee ** Cost includes \$5 drawing fee and \$10 Hunting Access Enhancement fee

Resident AND NonResident

Type of License	License Specifics	Cost	Deadline
Antelope	Licenses limited to specific districts. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*R \$19 *NR \$205	Jun 01
Antelope Multi-region Archery Only	Either-sex archery only license. License limited to specific regions. Must be applicant's first and only choice. May purchase this license at License Providers /Internet. Deadline to apply/purchase is June 1.	R \$14 NR \$200	Jun 01
Bighorn Sheep Limited/Unlimited	See moose, sheep, goat regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 1. RESIDENTS ONLY: \$75 fee plus \$5 drawing fee due at time of application. If successful you will be contacted by FWP and required to pay an additional fee of \$50 to purchase the license.	*R \$80 *NR \$755	May 01
Bison License	Deadline to apply is September 30.	R \$125 NR \$750	Sep 30
Black Bear	Licenses purchased after the April 14 deadline are valid only in the fall season. No bear license may be purchased after August 31. Deadline to apply/purchase the spring season license is April 14. Hunters must show proof of having passed a black bear identification test before purchasing a license.	R \$19 NR \$350	Apr 14/Aug 31
Crane	Deadline to apply is Aug 1.	*R \$5 *NR \$5	Aug 01
Deer B	Licenses limited to specific districts. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*R \$15 *NR \$80	Jun 01
Deer B Antlerless Whitetail, Single Region	Allows hunting of antlerless white-tailed deer only, in one region only. Conservation license and Hunting Access Enhancement Fee are prerequisites. Hunter must designate region upon purchase.	R \$10 NR \$75	
Deer Permits	Must be used with a general deer A license, Deadline to apply is June 1.	*R \$5 *NR \$5	Jun 01
Elk Permits	Nonresidents must hold a big game or elk combination license to apply. Residents must hold a valid elk license to apply. State refund policy does not allow refunds under \$5. If you are unsuccessful for only an elk permit, a refund will not be sent. Deadline to apply is June 1.	*R \$9 *NR \$9	Jun 01
Montana Migratory Bird License	Residents 12-15 years of age, 62 or older or holders of the Resident Disabled Conservation License need only a conservation license; residents 16-61 and nonresidents 16 and older need a conservation license, a Montana migratory bird license. Federal waterfowl stamp also required for individuals 16 and older.	R \$6.50 NR \$50	
Moose	See moose, sheep, goat regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 1. RESIDENTS ONLY: \$75 fee plus \$5 drawing fee due at time of application. If successful you will be contacted by FWP and required to pay an additional fee of \$50 to purchase the license.	*R \$80 *NR \$755	May 01
Mountain Goat	See moose, sheep, goat regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 1. RESIDENTS ONLY: \$75 fee plus \$5 drawing fee due at time of application. If successful you will be contacted by FWP and required to pay an additional fee of \$50 to purchase the license.	*R \$80 *NR \$755	May 01
Mountain Lion	Deadline to purchase or apply is August 31.	R \$19 NR \$320	Aug 31
Mountain Lion Trophy	Must be purchased after mountain lion kill.	R \$50 NR \$50	
Swan	Deadline to apply is September 8.	*R \$5 *NR \$5	Sep 08
Turkey	Conservation and upland game bird licenses are prerequisites only for residents. Nonresidents need only a conservation license as a prerequisite. Montana offers both a spring and fall season. The total combined limit of spring and fall season cannot exceed two turkeys per hunter. Nonresident who possess a upland bird, Big Game or Deer Combination license may purchase this license for \$55.	R \$6.50 NR \$115	
Upland Game Bird	Residents 12-14 years of age and 62 or older, or holders of a disabled resident conservation license need only a conservation license to hunt upland game birds.	R \$7.50 NR \$110	

* Cost includes \$5 drawing fee

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2006 Hunting Season Dates

The season dates below were adopted by the FWP Commission on February 21, 2006. These dates represent the "general" season dates. Check the individual hunting district regulations for the most accurate season dates and regulations.

Big Game

Antelope 900 series	Aug 15 - Nov 5
Antelope archery	Sep 2 - Oct 7
Antelope general	Oct 8 - Nov 5
Bighorn sheep	Sep 15 - Nov 26
Bison	Nov 15 - Feb 15, 2007
Black bear - spring	Apr 15 - May 31
Black bear - fall	Sep 15 - Nov 26
Deer & Elk archery	Sep 2 - Oct 15
Deer & Elk backcountry HD's 150, 151, 280 & 316	Sep 15 - Nov 26
Deer & Elk general	Oct 22 - Nov 26
Moose	Sep 15 - Nov 26
Mountain goat	Sep 15 - Nov 26
Mountain lion - fall	Oct 22 - Nov 26
Mountain lion - winter	Dec 1 - Apr 14, 2007

Upland Game Birds

Mountain grouse	Sep 1 - Dec 15
Partridge	Sep 1 - Jan 01, 2007
Pheasant	Oct 7 - Jan 01, 2007
Sage grouse	Sep 1 - Nov 1
Sharp-tailed grouse	Sep 1 - Jan 01, 2007
Turkey - spring	Apr 8 - May 21
Turkey - fall	Sep 1 - Jan 01, 2007

Key Terms

Archery Only Season: A season usually prior to the "General Season," when deer, elk and antelope may be hunted only with lawful archery equipment. Occasionally, some hunting districts with special circumstances may allow concurrent firearm use to address game damage issues; or firearms may be used for hunting other species, such as black bear.

ArchEquip Only: A weapons restriction limiting hunting only by the use of lawful archery equipment.

FWP Office: FWP operates seven Regional Offices, four Area Resource Offices, and the Headquarters in Helena. See back cover for addresses and phone numbers.

General Season: Also referred to as the "firearm season." For deer and elk this is the five-week period from late October to late November that is generally available for hunting with a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, traditional handgun, crossbow or archery equipment. For antelope, this is the four-week period from mid October to early November. The specific dates and any weapons restrictions for each hunting opportunity is specified in the hunting district regulations.

HD: Abbreviation for Hunting District.

Hunting Hours: Authorized hunting hours for the taking of big game animals begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See the official Sunrise-Sunset Tables listed at the end of these regulations.

License Provider: Any agent authorized to sell Montana hunting and fishing licenses. Includes commercial businesses—such as sporting goods dealers and convenience stores, as well as FWP offices and FWP Online Licensing.

License Year: Montana's license year is March 1 through the last day of February of the following year. The 2006 license year is March 1, 2006 – February 28, 2007.

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LPT: Abbreviation for License/Permit Type. FWP uses a 5-digit code to identify and describe the types of licenses offered for each species. The 5-digit code is unique for each license type for a given species. The first three digits usually indicate a hunting district and the last two digits may identify the sex/age class, whether it's a license or permit, and/or whether it is available over-the-counter.

Online Licensing: You can apply for special permits and/or licenses and purchase many general hunting licenses from FWP Online Licensing.

- Go to fwp.mt.gov/hunting/obtainlicense and follow the instructions.
- Online purchases must be made by using a MasterCard or Visa credit card.
- For a Montana resident to purchase a current year conservation license online, he/she must have purchased a conservation license through the automated licensing system (ALS) in a previous license year and have an ALS number. See Residency Requirements.
- Don't wait until the last minute. While some temporary licenses may be printed from your home computer, any license purchased online that requires a carcass tag, (i.e., deer, elk) cannot be printed from home. FWP will mail carcass tags to you within 10 days of your purchase.

Over-the-Counter: Term used when a license or permit may be purchased from License Providers or online, rather than only through a special drawing.

Quota: The quotas in this booklet are tentative. Final quotas are adopted by the FWP Commission after this booklet is printed. Special drawings are based on final quotas.

Weapons Restriction: Weapons restrictions are in effect in some hunting districts. Such restrictions are stated in the license/permit description and/or with a specific date range. Only certain weapons meeting the requirements may be used.

General Information for Obtaining a License or Permit

Mailing Lists

FWP regularly receives requests for mailing lists. To better protect your privacy, when you purchase a conservation license you'll be asked if you want your name and address included on mailing lists that FWP will compile for vendors, businesses and others who seek this information. While FWP will not include your name and address if you so request, it is important for you to know that Montana law requires FWP to allow public access to department records. As a result, vendors, businesses and others who wish to compile their own mailing lists may do so.

Your privacy is important to FWP and the State of Montana. To further protect your privacy, FWP will not allow access to your Social Security number, ALS number, phone number, age, date of birth, employer, height, weight, and eye and hair color.

Residency

It is illegal to swear to or to affirm a false statement in order to obtain a resident hunting and/or fishing license.

If you are unsure about your residency status, contact your local FWP office using the phone numbers listed on the back cover or the Helena enforcement office at 406-444-2452.

Resident: To be a legal Montana resident and eligible to purchase any Montana resident fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses, as per MCA 87-2-102, you must:

- have been physically living in Montana for at least 180 consecutive days immediately prior to purchasing a resident license;

- register your vehicle(s) in Montana;
- be registered to vote in Montana if you're registered to vote at all;
- not possess current (or have applied for any) resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in another state or country;
- file Montana state income tax returns as a resident, if you are required to file.

Once you have established your residency, you must continue to meet all these requirements and physically reside in Montana as your principal or primary place of abode for not less than 120 days per year (days need not be consecutive).

Nonresident: Montana's nonresident guests are eligible to purchase or apply for most Montana fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the license and/or permit quota. The Licenses Available Chart provides details.

Note: Nonresident unmarried minors, at least 12 but not older than 17 years of age, can hunt in Montana as a resident if the minor's parents, legal guardian, or parent with joint custody, sole custody, or visitation rights is a legal resident of Montana.

Prerequisites

Conservation License: Each new license year, a new Conservation License is required to purchase any fishing, trapping or hunting license(s), or to apply for special licenses/permits. Most licenses can be purchased from any License Provider beginning late February.

- To purchase a resident conservation license you will be required to show a valid Montana Driver's License (MDL) or a valid Montana Identification Card (MIC). If your MDL or MIC has been issued for less than six months, you may be required to show additional proof of residency. Contact your local FWP office for specifics.

In compliance with the Federal Welfare Reform Laws, Montana law requires each resident and nonresident hunter, including youth, to provide his/her Social Security number when purchasing a Conservation License or obtaining a Conservation License through special drawings.

Montana is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. Under the compact, member states recognize suspensions of hunting, fishing or trapping privileges. It is illegal for a violator whose privilege to hunt, fish or trap is suspended to obtain or attempt to obtain a license, tag or permit in a member state. For more information, call 406-444-2452.

Hunter Education: If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season.

Bow and Arrow License and Bowhunter Education: A bow and arrow license, plus the proper hunting license is required during: (1) the deer, elk and/or antelope Archery Only Season; or (2) to archery hunt in an Arch-Equip only area or hunting district. To purchase a Montana bow and arrow license, a hunter must:

- Provide a certificate of completing the National Bowhunter Education Foundation course, or
- Provide any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit, or license from any state or province. If you can no longer produce this license, for a \$5 fee you may sign an affidavit stating that you previously held such a license. The affidavit should be available at most FWP License Providers. The affidavit entitles you to purchase a current year's Montana bow and arrow license.

- Duplicate Bowhunter or Hunter Education certificates of completion for the Montana hunter education and/or bowhunter education courses may be obtained from FWP's website.

Remedial Hunter Education Program: Per MCA 87-1-120, a person who is sentenced by the court to complete a remedial hunter education program shall pay the costs directly attributable to the person's participation in the remedial hunter education program. A participant whose hunting, fishing, or trapping license has been revoked for a hunting violation shall successfully complete the program before license privileges may be reinstated.

Hunting Licenses and Permits

Refer to the Licenses Available Chart for a complete list of resident and nonresident licenses and application or purchase deadlines.

Licenses/permits must be carried on your person at all times while in the field and hunting, and must be produced if requested by FWP Enforcement personnel.

Many licenses and permits may be purchased from any License Provider, including Online Licensing. Some are available only through a Special Drawing, and some may either be purchased from any License Provider, including Online Licensing, or applied for via a Special Drawing. Special Drawing applications must be postmarked no later than the deadline.

Only one license or permit of any type may be purchased each year, unless otherwise specified and allowed in the regulations (i.e., you may purchase more than one deer B license).

It is illegal to:

- Swear to or affirm any false statement when obtaining licenses or permits.
- Loan or transfer a license to another person or to use a license issued to another person.
- Carry or have physical control over a valid and unused hunting license or permit issued to another person while in any location where the species to be hunted occurs.
- Alter a license or permit for any reason.
- Hunt, fish, or trap while your license is suspended or revoked, or apply for a license or permit for a suspended privilege.

Hunting License: The license authorizes the holder to hunt the species identified on the license according to the regulations specified. This hunting license (sometimes referred to as a "tag") must be attached to a harvested animal to show proper authorization to hunt, kill and possess that particular animal. Please refer to "Procedures to Follow Upon Harvesting an Animal" for complete instructions on what to do when an animal is killed.

Types of Licenses and Permits: All licenses and permits that can be used in a hunting district are listed in the regulations for that hunting district. Licenses and permits that can be used in a hunting district are grouped by license/permit type (general, special license, special permit, 2nd antlerless elk, etc.) and whether they are available for purchase from FWP License Providers or through the special drawing only.

- **Conservation License:** Prerequisite for all resident and nonresident licenses. Includes the state lands recreation license (for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes).
- **General License:** Resident general licenses may be purchased from any License Provider, including online at fwp.mt.gov. They are available to all residents and may be used throughout the state according to the regulations. Nonresidents may apply for/purchase general licenses specified for nonresidents in the Licenses Available Chart. Please refer to the hunting district regulations to see how, when and where a general license may be used in each hunting district or portion of a hunting district.

- **Deer A License** – The deer A license is Montana's general deer-hunting license. It is valid for one deer. Hunters may purchase only one deer A license. It can be used for a mule deer or a white-tailed deer as indicated under the "General Deer A License" heading on the Deer & Elk Hunting Districts pages of these regulations.
- **Deer B license** – valid for one deer during a specific time period, or for a certain species and sex, and in a particular hunting district or group of districts.

- **Special License:** Special licenses are generally available through the Special Drawing. It allows you to hunt in an otherwise restricted area or time period, usually for a specific sex and age class of animal. A special license generally (but not always) allows you to harvest an additional animal over and above the one you may harvest with your general license.
- **Permit:** Some unlimited permits may be issued from License Providers or through special drawings. The permit must be used with a specific hunting license. A permit is not a second license and does not allow the holder to kill an additional animal. Rather, it expands the opportunity to hunt for a species in a particular hunting district.
- **Duplicates:** If your original license(s) is lost, stolen or destroyed, a replacement license may be issued by most license providers, a replacement fee will be charged. You will also be asked to swear or affirm to a statement that you have lost the license(s). If the original license(s) is found, it must be returned to FWP.

Availability of Licenses and Permits

Deadlines:

- Applications, as well as some general licenses, and many special licenses and permits, have purchase or application deadlines. The Licenses Available Chart provides details.
- Applications are available at License Providers or may be downloaded from the FWP website. Nonresidents may call 406-444-2950 to request an application through the mail.
- You must have your application in on time. You may have your application entered directly into the system at an FWP office or you may mail in your application. If the application is mailed, it must be postmarked no later than the deadline date. The postmark must be an official U.S. Postal Service mark. A postage meter postmark cannot be accepted.
- FWP encourages hunters to apply for special permits/licenses online, as online safeguards will not accept incomplete applications and will not accept applications with incorrect district(s) listed for individual license/permit categories.
- Licenses/permits that have a purchase deadline have to be purchased no later than the deadline date.

Special Licenses and Permits: You may apply for a special permit and/or license that allows you to hunt in an otherwise restricted area or time period. You may also decide to participate in the bonus point system.

Residents must hold a general deer A license before using a special deer permit purchased over-the-counter or awarded through the special drawings. Residents must hold a general elk license before applying for a special elk permit, A7 or A9 elk license.

Nonresidents must hold a Big Game Elk/Deer or Deer Combination License before applying for a special deer permit. Nonresidents must hold a Big Game Elk/Deer or Big Game Elk Combination License before applying for a special elk permit, A7 or B12 elk license.

Nonresident holders of a Landowner-Sponsored Deer Combination License are reminded that the license (including B licenses) entitles them to hunt deer only on the deeded lands of the sponsoring landowner. This license may not be used on leased or public land. However, the license is valid statewide for fishing and hunting upland game birds.

Nonresident holders of a Landowner-Sponsored Deer Combination License may apply for a special deer permit or deer B license only in the hunting district where they are authorized to hunt deer.

Drawing Applications: Drawing applications are available from FWP's website and License Providers. If mailed, completed applications must be sent to the address listed on that application form.

Applications for deer, elk and/or antelope special licenses and permits must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before June 1. Hunters may apply online no later than June 1 for special permits/licenses for deer, elk, and antelope.

- FWP encourages hunters to apply for special permits/licenses online, as online safeguards will not accept incomplete applications and will not accept applications with incorrect district(s) listed for individual license/permit categories.

Some licenses and permits are valid only in a portion or portions of a hunting district. Carefully review the legal description of the district for which you are applying. A copy of the "portion of district" legal description is available: online at fwp.mt.gov, by mail from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Wildlife Division, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701, or email fwpwild@mt.gov.

Both resident and nonresident hunters are eligible to apply for most of the licenses awarded through the special drawings. By state law, nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the license and/or permit quota. The Licenses Available Chart provides details. Drawings are based upon the final quotas adopted by the FWP Commission which may differ from the quotas listed in the hunting district regulations.

For specific special license/permit opportunities please refer to the hunting district regulations where you will find a complete list of all available hunting opportunities for each hunting district.

Unlimited Over-the-Counter Licenses and Permits:

Certain antelope licenses and deer and elk permits with unlimited quotas were formerly available only through a special drawing application. They are now available for purchase over-the-counter from License Providers and/or via the special drawing. While an over-the-counter purchase allows you to obtain these unlimited licenses or permits immediately, the items still must be purchased by the June 1 deadline. If you purchase an unlimited over-the-counter license or permit, you cannot apply for the same species with a drawing application. If you do not purchase an unlimited license or permit over-the-counter, you can apply for them via the special drawings.

Drawing Process: FWP's special drawings are computerized and completely random. A computer assigns each application a randomly selected number. In other words, the computer randomly draws assigned numbers, not applicant names.

Drawings are conducted species by species, hunting district by hunting district. For example, when conducting the drawing for elk permits, the computer starts with the first elk hunting district: 100-00. If the quota is 10, the computer starts selecting applicants who applied for this district as their first choice. If there are at least 10 first choice applicants, the drawing does not consider second choice applicants. When that district quota has been filled, the computer goes to the next hunting district and completes the same process until all district quotas are filled with first choice applicants. If there are not enough first choice applicants to fill a quota, the computer starts selecting second choice applicants, and so forth.

Bonus Point System: The fee to participate in the voluntary bonus-point system is \$2 for Montana residents and \$20 for nonresidents, payable with the license and application fees. You must pay the participation fee when applying to use or

gain bonus points. When participating in the bonus point system, here's how it works:

- Applicants accumulate one bonus point for each unsuccessful year. Each bonus point essentially becomes an extra chance in future drawings. For example, applicants would have one chance to be drawn the first year they apply. If unsuccessful, they would have two chances to be drawn the following year and three chances the next year, and so on until they received the license. Once successful, the applicant loses all bonus points for that species.
- Bonus points are accumulated independently for each species and only apply to "first-choice" districts. An applicant may skip two consecutive years of participation without forfeiting accumulated points, but if an applicant skips the third year—or has errors that eliminate the applicant from the drawing—all accumulated points for that species will be lost. There is an exemption for Montana residents with full-time active military status.
- Rejection of an application because of applicant error is equivalent to failure to apply.
- Points are non-transferable.
- FWP will contact bonus-point participants each year by postcard to report their accumulated points. Bonus-point status is also available online. It will be the applicant's responsibility to report any discrepancies.

The number of bonus points applicable to applicants applying as a group is the total number of bonus points held by the members of the group, divided by the number of applicants in the group, then rounded to the nearest whole number. When two or more persons apply as a group and choose to participate in the bonus point system, all group members must pay the bonus point fee. If one or more group members do not pay the bonus point fee, but the other members pay the fee, those who have not paid the fee will be taken out of the group and one of the following shall occur:

- If one individual is removed from the group, that person is entered into the drawing as an individual applicant.
- If two or more individuals are removed from a group, these individuals are entered into the drawing as a separate group.

All nonresidents who are unsuccessful in the nonresident combination license drawing are mailed a form that must be returned if they wish to accumulate bonus points for special deer and elk permits. If you did not receive this form and wish to participate in the bonus point system, please contact FWP at 406-444-2950.

SuperTag Lottery for Deer and Elk: Beginning this year, resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for deer and elk, bighorn sheep, moose, and/or mountain goat. An individual may be successful in winning one or a combination of these SuperTags per year. Each SuperTag license allows one to hunt in any Montana hunting district valid for that species. Chances are sold electronically at all FWP License Providers or via the Internet. Proceeds from the sale of SuperTag chances will enhance public hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts. For more information visit FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov.

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Special Drawing Results – dates are approximate

License	Drawing Results	Refunds Mailed
Nonresident		
Combination	Mid April	End of April
Moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat	Third week of June	End of June
Deer, elk, antelope	Mid August	End of August

You may check for drawing results online at fwp.mt.gov.

Fees and Refunds: In addition to the cost of each permit or license, there is a \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee for each license or permit you apply for. The \$5 fee covers the cost of printing and processing the application.

In some situations, FWP may refund resident or nonresident – in full or in part – fees for licenses and/or special drawings.

Situations include:

Reason	Deadline	Refund
Death of licensee	12/31/06	100%
Death of family member	12/31/06	90%
Medical emergency	12/31/06	90%

The appropriate documentation (death certificate, medical statement, etc.) must accompany the unused license(s) and a signed request form certifying the license(s) has not been used. Nonresident license holders should call 406-444-2950 for information.

Call Special Licensing at 406-444-2950:

- If you do not receive your license or refund within 2-3 weeks of time from refund dates. Note: the license fee is refunded if an applicant is unsuccessful in the drawings, unless there is a valid obligation owed to the State of Montana or if the refund is less than \$5. If a valid obligation exists, the refund may be retained by the State Auditor and applied against that amount.
- For information on special drawings for big game hunting.
- For surplus license (any left-over licenses or permits from the drawing) information and applications (available by the end of August).

License/Permit Special Drawing Codes: FWP uses a 5-digit LPT code (e.g., elk 100-00, deer 312-50, antelope 620-10) to describe the types of licenses and permits offered for each species, such as antlerless elk permit, limited buck permit, and antelope doe/fawn license. The 5-digit code is unique for each license or permit type for a given species.

The first three digits usually indicate a hunting district and the last two digits identify the sex/age class and whether it is available over-the-counter. Occasionally, the first three digits do not represent a hunting district but rather a group of hunting districts within a region. For example, 598-00 is a code for a special deer license valid in hunting districts 511, 540, 570 and 580.

Special Considerations

Armed Forces: A member of the regular armed forces of the United States, a member's dependent who resides in the member's Montana household, or a member of the armed forces of a foreign government attached to the regular armed forces of the United States is considered a resident for Montana hunting, fishing and trapping licenses if:

- The member was a resident of Montana under the provisions listed under residency at the time the member entered the armed forces and continues to meet these residency criteria; or,
- The member is currently stationed in and assigned to active duty in Montana, has resided in Montana for a least 30 days, and presents official assignment orders and a certificate verifying successful completion of an approved hunter safety course from any state or province.

Party Applications: For a few special drawings, two or more applicants may apply as a "party." If you apply as a party, each party member must list the identical license/permit choices in the identical order on his/her application. If one or more party members do not pay the bonus point fee, but the other members pay the fee, those who have not paid the fee will be taken out of the party. Either everyone in the party is successful in obtaining a license or everyone is unsuccessful. A party of individuals is assigned one random number in the computer. If that number is drawn, each member of the party receives a permit/license. Keep in mind, however, using one's license to tag an animal killed by another person is illegal. In Montana each hunter in a party must possess his/her own license and shoot his/her own animal.

The success rate for applying as a party versus as an individual is about the same. However, if a resident applies with a nonresident in a party, the whole group is considered "nonresident" because of the 10-percent quota limit on nonresident licenses and/or permits.

The maximum number of applicants in a party depends on the drawing:

- Elk permits (available only for a few districts): 2 members.
- Antelope licenses (available for all districts): up to 5 members.
- Nonresident Combination license (unlimited): up to 5 members.

Landowner Preference: Montana landowners (resident and nonresident) may qualify for preference in the special license/permit drawings for deer, elk, and antelope.

In order to claim landowner preference for deer B, deer permit, and/or antelope drawings, a landowner must own or be contracting to purchase at least 160 contiguous acres of land within the hunting district applied for. If the license/permit is only valid for a portion of the hunting district, the landowner must own land within that portion and the land must be used primarily for agricultural purposes.

In order to claim landowner preference for elk permits, A7 elk license drawings and/or A9/B12 license drawings, a landowner must own or be contracting to purchase at least 640 contiguous acres of land regularly used by elk for one or more seasonal activities. Unusual or infrequent sightings of elk are not sufficient qualification for landowner preference. If the license/permit is only valid for a portion of the hunting district, a landowner must own land within that portion to claim preference.

Nonresidents owning land in Montana should contact FWP Headquarters in Helena at 406-444-2950 for details on how to apply for landowner preference. See the Licenses Available Chart for prerequisite license requirements and deadlines to apply.

A landowner may designate his/her preference to a member of his/her immediate family (blood or marriage related) or a ranch manager (paid employee who has state, federal, or FICA taxes withheld from pay). Only one person may use designated preference in a partnership or corporation.

Hunters with a Disability: For applications, detailed eligibility requirements, and information on licenses and permits for hunters with disabilities contact any FWP office or the FWP website. See back cover for addresses and phone numbers.

- **Resident With a Disability Conservation License:** Residents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as defined by FWP rules, may purchase a conservation license for \$8 which includes fishing, warm water fishing license, upland game bird (excluding turkey), state waterfowl license, and state lands recreational use license for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes. The license holder may also purchase a deer A and general elk license at a discounted price. Applications for a Resident With a Disability Conservation License are available at all

FWP offices and FWP website. The certification is valid for the life of the holder or until changed by the Montana Legislature.

- **Permit To Hunt From a Vehicle (PTHFV):** Residents and nonresidents certified as permanently and substantially non-ambulatory, as defined by FWP rules, may apply for a PTHFV. The PTHFV allows a person to hunt from a vehicle. A companion who is able to assist with field dressing a game animal must accompany the permit holder while hunting. It is illegal for the companion to shoot from the vehicle. Check with the appropriate land management agency or landowner regarding motorized access.
- **Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE):** Residents and nonresidents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as defined by FWP rules, may apply for a PTMAE. The PTMAE allows a person with a disability to use archery tackle that supports the bow, and draws, holds, and releases the string to accommodate the individual disability. Arrows are not exempt, and must meet requirements for the Archery Only Season. This permit does not entitle the holder to use a crossbow. The permit only allows modification of legal archery tackle and must be used with a valid bow and arrow license and appropriate hunting license.
- **Certain Combat Disabled Veterans:** A veteran with certain combat –connected injuries may be entitled to half-priced licenses for deer and antelope. Up to 50 licenses will be issued annually. Contact FWP License Bureau for details at 406-444-2663.
- **Free license for terminally ill youth.** A new law allows terminally ill resident or nonresident youth under 17 years of age to receive a free one-time deer and elk license. The youth must be accompanied by a licensed outfitter or an adult who has a license to hunt in Montana. Minimum age and hunter's safety requirements may be waived for this license. For information call the License Section at 406-444-2950.
- **Special Licenses and/or Permits for Hunters with a Disability:** Applicants must apply on FWP-provided forms available at FWP offices or FWP website. For more information contact FWP at 406-444-2950.
 - **Deer:** Deer B license 630-20 (HD 630). Applicants must have a Resident With a Disability Conservation License, and apply on or before June 1.
 - **Elk:**
 - Permit 313-12 (HD 313). Applicants must possess a Resident With a Disability Conservation License, an elk license, and apply on or before June 1.
 - Permit 121-02 (HD 121) and 313-13 (HD 313). Applicants must have a Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle, valid conservation and elk licenses and apply by June 1.
 - **Antelope:** Individuals who are permanently physically disabled and nonambulatory as defined in ARM 12.3.106, may apply for a special antelope license. A total of 25 special antelope licenses are issued through the June 1 drawing. These licenses are offered in those antelope hunting districts which have a total quota of 50 or more antelope licenses. Applicants must apply on FWP-provided forms available at all FWP offices. Applications must be postmarked on or before June 1.

Visually Challenged Individuals: A copy of the big game regulations is available in an alternative format upon request. Call 406-444-2535 for details.

Youth Hunter:

- Youth 12 through 17 years of age are eligible for a variety of licenses, permits, and programs depending on age and residency status. There are also special requirements that apply to youth of certain ages.

- A youth 12 years of age, or who turns 12 before or during the season for which the license is issued, may apply for a special license and/or permit, but must be able to show proof of having completed an approved hunter education course when applying.
- Any Montana youth 12 through 17 years of age who successfully completed a hunter safety and education course, and who seeks to purchase his or her first Montana hunting license, is entitled to receive a Resident Youth Combination Sports License free of charge.
- A youth (resident or nonresident) 12 years of age or who turns 12 years old before or during the season for which the license is issued, is entitled to purchase or apply for a deer A, deer B, elk, antelope, black bear, lion, upland game bird and/or turkey license and/or permit prior to turning 12 years of age. The youth may not hunt until his/her 12th birthday.
- A resident youth 14 years of age who purchases a discounted deer A or elk license, may use the license throughout the season, even if he/she turns 15 before or during the season.
- In order to carry or use a firearm in public, a youth under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a person having charge or custody of the child, or be under the supervision of a qualified firearms safety instructor or an adult 18 years of age or older who has been authorized by the youth's parent or guardian, MCA 45-8-344.
- **Special Youth Elk Hunts:** Youth 12 through 15 years of age may hunt elk as designated by "Only youth ages 12-15" in the regulations. See "Special Youth Elk Hunts" section for a listing of hunting districts and details.
- **Special Youth Elk Permits:** Special elk permits 282-20 (HD 282), 313-12 (HDs 313 and 314), 314-24 (HD 314) and 621-00 (HDs 621 and 622), 631-01 (HD 631), 680-00 (HD 680) and 690-00 (HD 690) are available in the drawing for youth 12 but not older than 15 years of age.

Guidelines, Rules and Laws for Hunting in Montana

Hunter Orange Requirement

Firearm Hunters: Any person hunting or accompanying a hunter as an outfitter or guide must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material above the waist, visible at all times (see exception below).

Archery Hunters: A licensed bowhunter pursuing deer, elk and/or antelope during the Archery Only Season is not required to meet the hunter orange requirement even if there is a concurrent firearm season in that hunting district or portion of district. However, bowhunters hunting during any portion of the general season or pursuing moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black bear, and/or mountain lion during any hunting season must always wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) above the waist, visible at all times.

Seasons

Montana offers hunting opportunities for the use of both firearms and archery equipment.

Archery Only Season: A season usually prior to the "General Season," when deer, elk and antelope may be hunted only with lawful archery equipment. Occasionally, some hunting districts with special circumstances may allow concurrent firearm use to address game damage issues; or firearms may be used for hunting other species such as, black bear.

Archery hunters are reminded a "bow and arrow license" is required to hunt during an Archery Only Season or in an ArchEquip only area.

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Most deer, elk and antelope hunting districts have an Archery Only Season. Exceptions are noted under the specific hunting district regulations.

Hunters who receive a special permit and/or license to hunt deer or elk during all or any portion of the General Season, may archery hunt for the species and sex indicated on the permit or license during the Archery Only Season when listed in the hunting district regulations. Hunters may hunt with a bow and arrow during the General Season. However, they must conform to the rifle season regulations, which include wearing a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material above the waist.

General Season: Also referred to as the "rifle season." For deer and elk this is the five-week period from late October to late November that is generally available for hunting with a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, traditional handgun, crossbow or archery equipment. For antelope, this is the four-week period from mid October to early November. The specific dates and any weapons restrictions for each hunting opportunity will be specified in the hunting district regulations. All hunters are required to wear hunter orange.

Weapons Restriction Areas: Weapons restrictions are in effect in some hunting districts. Such restrictions are stated in the license/permit description and/or with a specific date range. Only certain weapons meeting the requirements may be used.

Methods and Means of Hunting

Firearms: There is no caliber limitation during the General Season for the taking of big game animals.

Archery: Archery tackle may be used during the General Season for the taking of big game animals.

The use of poisonous, explosive, or deleterious substances on or in any bullet, projectile or arrow is prohibited. The possession of firearms with silencers while afield is illegal.

Shotgun: Hunters are prohibited from shooting deer or elk with shotguns, except with lead loads of 0 buck or larger, or rifled slugs.

Muzzleloaders, Traditional Handguns and Shotgun: The following equipment restrictions apply to Weapons Restriction Areas:

- **Muzzleloader:** There is no special season for muzzleloaders. A muzzleloader:
 - must not be capable of being loaded from the breech of the barrel;
 - may not be loaded with any prepared paper or metallic cartridges;
 - must be charged with black powder, pyrodex, or an equivalent;
 - must be ignited by a percussion, flintlock, matchlock, or wheellock mechanism;
 - must be a minimum of .45 caliber;
 - may have no more than two barrels; and
 - must only use lead, not sabots.
 - **Traditional Handguns:** A traditional handgun:
 - is not capable of being shoulder mounted;
 - has a barrel length of less than 10 ½ inches;
 - chambers only a straight wall cartridge, not originally developed for rifles.
 - **Shotgun:** Definition of shotgun for use in Weapons Restriction Areas:
 - a shouldered, breech-loaded or muzzle-loaded firearm with a smooth bore and/or rifled barrel and/or rifled choke device designed to fire shot or rifled slugs.
- Crossbows:** Crossbows may be used during the General Season and in most weapons restriction areas during the General Season. They are prohibited during the Archery Only Season and in ArchEquip Only areas or hunting districts unless specifically allowed.
- Archery:** The following equipment restrictions apply to all hunters during the Archery Only Season and in ArchEquip Only areas:
- **Lawful Archery Equipment:** It is illegal to possess, while hunting big game during any archery season, archery equipment that does not meet the following criteria:
 - **Hunting Bow:** A hunting bow for big game shall be a longbow, flatbow, recurve bow, compound bow, or any combination of these designs meeting the following requirements and restrictions:
 - The bow must be a device for launching an arrow, which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs (includes bows with split limbs).
 - The bow must be hand drawn by a single and direct uninterrupted pulling action of the shooter. The bowstring must be moved from brace height to the full draw position by the muscle power of the shooter's body. The energy used to propel the arrow shall not be derived from any other source such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, or similar devices. These limitations shall not exclude the mechanical leverage advantage provided by eccentric wheels or cams, so long as the available energy stored in the bent limbs of the bow is the sole result of a single, continuous, and direct pulling effort by the shooter.
 - The bow must be hand-held. One hand shall hold the bow and the other hand draw the bowstring. The bowstring must be moved and/or held at all points in the draw cycle entirely by muscle power of the shooter until release. The bowstring must be released as a direct and conscious action of the shooter, either relaxing the tension of the fingers or triggering the release action of a hand-held release aid.
 - Exception: Physically disabled bowhunters certified by FWP with the Permit To Modify Archery Equipment are exempted from the requirement of holding or shooting the bow with their hands.
 - The bow shall be no shorter than 28 inches.
 - The nominal percent of let-off for hunting bows shall be a maximum of 80 percent. It is recognized that variations in draw length and/or draw weight can affect the percent of let-off on compound bows. For these reasons minor variations in let-off are acceptable.
 - **Arrow:** An arrow is a projectile at least 20 inches in overall length. The length of the arrow is measured from the rearward point of the nock to the tip of the broadhead.
 - Fletching is attached to the nock end of the shaft.
 - A broadhead is mounted on the fore end.
 - The arrow shall weigh no less than 300 grains with the broadhead attached.
 - Arrows must have broadheads with at least two cutting edges. The broadhead must be at least 7/8 inches at the widest point, and weigh no less than 70 grains.
 - **The following are not considered a hunting bow:**
 - Crossbow: (A crossbow, however, may be used during the general season where allowed in the regulations.)
 - Any device with a gun-type stock or incorporating any device or mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter's muscle power.
 - Any bow for which a portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any track, trough, channel, or other device that attaches directly to the bow's riser contacts, supports, and/or guides the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height. This is not intended to restrict the use of standard overdraw systems.

• **Illegal Archery Equipment:**

- The following archery equipment is prohibited during the Archery Only Season or in an ArchEquip Only area or hunting district:
 - Electronic or battery-powered devices attached to a hunting bow.
 - A bow sight or arrow which uses artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics.
- The following archery equipment is illegal during any season:
 - Any chemical or explosive device attached to an arrow to aid in the taking of wildlife.

Hunter Access

It is your responsibility as a hunter in Montana to always know where you are, to know who owns the land, and to know what access restrictions apply. Always carry a map that clearly marks hunting district boundaries, landownership, and travel restrictions. Maps may be obtained at most federal agencies such as U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service offices, as well as some sporting goods stores. Also, be sure to visit the FWP website for the 2006 Interactive Hunt Planner.

Block Management: The Block Management program is a cooperative effort among private and some public landowners, FWP, and hunters. The program seeks to: (1) maintain public hunting access to private and isolated public lands; (2) help landowners manage public hunting and provide benefits to offset impacts like increased road maintenance and weed control; and (3) help FWP manage wildlife. Each FWP Region administers the Block Management Areas (BMAs) for its portion of the state. If you are interested in hunting a BMA, contact the regional office in the area you wish to hunt. Regional tabloids listing lands enrolled in the program are available annually on August 15, which is also the earliest date to reserve access to a BMA. For general information about block management, contact FWP at 406-444-2602.

Private Land: Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land. Even if the land is not posted, hunters must have permission from the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property. Landowners may grant permission face-to-face, over the phone, in writing, or by posting signs that explain the type of hunting allowed—game species or sex—and under what conditions. Visit FWP's website for the 2006 Interactive Hunt Planner or visit gis.mt.gov for assistance with land ownership.

Railroad Access: Railroads and railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission, nor should they be used as access to other lands (private or public) without explicit permission from the railroad. Consult the individual railroad for details.

Stream Access: Big game hunting between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers is illegal without landowner permission. Landowner permission must be obtained to hunt private lands adjacent to waterways.

Public Land:

- National Parks are closed to hunting.
- National Wildlife Refuge lands are closed except those areas designated open to public hunting. For hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges or Federal Waterfowl Production Areas, inquire at the local refuge office.
- For hunting opportunities on federal lands such as U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management, inquire at the local federal office.
- Access to public lands through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.

State School Trust Lands: A \$2 fee paid when you purchase your conservation license, provides hunters, anglers and trappers access to legally accessible State School Trust

Lands. Trappers still need to secure a "Special State Lands Recreational Use License" from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), usually at no additional charge. Other recreational activities such as hiking and bird watching still require the \$10 fee. These activities cannot, by Federal statute, be covered by the conservation license.

These rules apply:

- On lands outside designated campgrounds there is a 2-day camping limit.
- Overnight (2 night) camping is allowed within 200 feet of a legal access point.
- Horses may not be kept on state land overnight.
- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on designated roads.
- Designated roads signed as "open" to motorized vehicle use or the information as to which roads are designated as open is available from the DNRC Offices.
- Motorized use of other roads and trails and all off-road use is prohibited.
- Game retrieval is by foot or horse only.
- No open fires are allowed except in designated campground fire pits. Contained mechanical heat sources are allowed.
- Firearms may not be discharged within ¼ mile of an inhabited dwelling or outbuilding without permission of the inhabitant.
- State School Trust Lands within Block Management Areas (BMA) may have more liberal regulations. Consult the individual regulations for specific BMAs.
- Additional information regarding the rules, regulations, and restrictions governing these activities is available from FWP or contact DNRC at 406-444-2074.

State Game Preserves: State game preserves may or may not be open to limited hunting. See Areas Closed or Limited to Hunting Methods for Big Game.

State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA): Wildlife Management Areas are generally open for hunting. They are closed to public entry, unless otherwise posted, from the day following the end of the general deer-elk season or December 1, whichever is later, to May 15 each year, as posted.

- Exceptions: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10; Kootenai Falls WMA is open year long; Porcupine (Gallatin), Dome Mountain, Bear Creek and Wall Creek WMAs open May 1.

Tribal Land: Only tribal members are allowed to hunt big game on Indian Reservations, unless otherwise provided for by agreements between the State of Montana and Tribal Government. For questions contact the respective Tribal Government office.

Reporting Requirements:

Check Stations: All hunters and anglers are required by law to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Inspection: Wildlife taken must be shown to FWP enforcement for inspection when requested.

Kill Site Verification: As a condition of hunting in Montana, you may be required to return to the kill site if requested to do so by an FWP employee.

Marked or radio-collared animals: It is legal to shoot big game animals that have radio collars, neck bands, ear tags and/or other markers, but markers and radio collars must be returned to FWP. Please report the killing of a marked animal to the local FWP Office.

Harvest Survey: Montana FWP conducts an annual telephone survey beginning in early January for 5 to 6 weeks to gather hunting and harvest information from Montana hunters. Telephone interviewers located across the state call from their homes mid-week evenings and weekends to speak

to hunters one-on-one to get the most accurate information possible. Wildlife managers use the results to evaluate hunting seasons and set quotas, season dates and other regulations.

Procedures to Follow Upon Harvesting an Animal

License Validation and Tagging: Immediately after killing a game animal, a hunter must cut out the proper month and day of the kill from the appropriate license and attach it to the animal in a secure and visible manner.

To properly validate a license (sometimes referred to as a tag), locate the month the animal was killed and completely cut away (notch out) the month. Then locate and cut away (notch out) the first and second digits of the date the animal was killed. **Three cut outs or notches are required to properly validate the license.** More or less than three cut outs would invalidate the license. The example below shows a properly validated license for an animal harvested on November 7th. To secure the license to the animal, you can use black electrician's tape to wrap the license around the leg or antler. The properly validated license must remain with the meat (including cold storage) until consumed. If quartered, the license should remain with the largest portion of the carcass.

ALS NUMBER: 04/13/1943-1

TAG INFO: R 2004004

TRAINING MODE - NOT VALID

License Listing #: 4 1 of 1

Usage: 2006 DEER SEASON

Provider - Clerk #: 36009 - NEAL

Session #: D936009 - 02/22/2006 - 09:01:49

LOUIS N CLARK

JEFFERSON CITY MT 59638

DEER A

02/22/2006 36009

MFWP Director: M Jeff Hagener

JAN> IMMEDIATELY UPON KILL <JUL
FEB> cut out month and date <AUG
MAR> and attach to carcass. <SEP
APR> <OCT
MAY> <NOV
JUN> DAY OF MONTH (below) <DEC

1st-digit 2nd-digit

1 2 3 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Evidence of Game Animal's Sex: It is illegal to possess or transport the carcass of any big game animal unless evidence of the animal's sex and species remains naturally attached to its carcass or a portion of the carcass. The easiest way to meet this requirement is to leave the animal's head attached to the carcass. However, if the animal's head is removed (including quartered, boned-out or skinned animals) some other evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass or a portion of it. The following are considered lawful evidence of sex for horned or antlered game animals. For specific requirements for black bear and mountain lion, refer to the respective species regulations.

- **Male:** head with the horns or antlers naturally attached, penis, testicles, or scrotum.
- **Female:** head or udder (mammarys).

Evidence of an animal's sex and species must remain naturally attached until the animal's meat is processed (cut and wrapped) or delivered to a taxidermist. If you have questions

on how to apply the regulations in your particular situation, please contact your local game warden or regional FWP enforcement.

Game Retrieval: Hunters may in some instances drive off established roads and trails to retrieve game. In all cases, when on private lands, hunters must first obtain permission from the landowner. In the case of public lands, the policy or law varies. BLM public lands allow motorized travel on roads and trails unless designated closed. On National Forest lands, restrictions to motorized travel are described on Travel Plan maps available at local U. S. Forest Service offices. On National Wildlife Refuges, all off-road travel is prohibited. For further information, contact the appropriate land management agencies.

Transport of Wildlife: An individual other than the license holder may transport properly tagged animals that comply with the "Evidence of Sex Requirements" and that were lawfully taken by the license holder. If you have specific questions please contact FWP Enforcement at 406-444-2452.

- All shippers of fish, game or nongame birds, game animals, fur-bearing animals, the skins of fur-bearing animals or predatory animals, or parts thereof are required to label all packages offered for shipment by parcel post or common carrier (airlines or UPS, etc.). The label must be securely attached to the address of the package and shall plainly indicate the names and addresses of the consignor and consignee and the complete contents of the package. It is a violation of the Federal Lacey Act to transport an illegally taken game animal across state boundaries.
- It is illegal to ship, possess, or take out of state illegally killed game, game birds, and/or furbearers. If you are transporting lawfully taken wildlife (including parts and/or products of live or dead animals) between Montana and Canada or between the United States and any foreign country, whether for commercial or noncommercial purposes, you must complete a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Declaration form (Form 3-177). Form 3-177 is available at all United States customs ports and on the USFWS web site at www.fws.gov. Additional federal permits may also be needed to import/export wildlife, depending on the species. For further information contact the USFWS Wildlife Inspector at 406-335-4350.
- Because of fears about the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a number of states have instituted regulations prohibiting the import of certain deer or elk carcass parts. If you are a nonresident hunter and plan on transporting your harvested animal back to your home state, you should check with your state regulatory authorities concerning current regulations. CWD has not been detected in free ranging deer or elk populations in Montana. Questions concerning carcass transport may be directed to FWP Enforcement at 406-444-2452.

- Montana residents harvesting deer, elk or moose in Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan may only bring back:

1. Meat that is cut and wrapped.
2. Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
3. Meat that has been boned out.
4. Hides with no heads attached.
5. Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached.
6. Antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
7. Upper canine teeth, also known as "buglers", "whistlers" or "ivories".
8. Finished head, partial body or whole body mounts already prepared by a taxidermist.

Keep in mind that "Evidence of Sex Requirements" must always be met when transporting any of these parts back into Montana.

Waste of Game: Hunters, or persons in possession of a game animal or game animal parts, are prohibited from wasting or rendering unfit for human consumption, any part of a game animal that is defined as “suitable for food.” For big game animals (excluding mountain lions) all of the four quarters above the hock, including loin and backstrap are considered suitable for food. A person harvesting a black bear or mountain lion is prohibited from abandoning the head or hide in the field.

Other Hunting Rules and Statutes

Airplane Spotting: Aircraft may not be used to locate big game animals for the purpose of:

- hunting those animals within the same hunting day after a person has been airborne; or
- providing information to another person for the purpose of hunting those animals within the same hunting day after being airborne.
- The same hunting day in these contexts is defined as between the earliest and latest legal hunting hours.

Antler/Horn/Skull Possession: Hunters may possess, transport, sell, or purchase naturally shed antlers, or the antlers with a skull or portion of a skull attached from a game animal that has died from natural causes and that has not been illegally or accidentally killed. Road-killed animals have not died from natural causes; therefore, the carcass or parts of protected or regulated species may not be salvaged or possessed. It is illegal to possess a bighorn sheep head picked up in the wild.

Dogs: MCA 87-3-124 states that persons may not use dogs to hunt (which includes pursue or chase) game or fur-bearing animals. Exceptions under this law allow using dogs to hunt game birds during the appropriate season, and allowing the FWP Commission to regulate the use of dogs for hunting and chasing mountain lions and bobcats.

Game Calls: It is illegal to use a recorded or electrically amplified game call to hunt big game.

Glandular Scents: Natural or artificial glandular scents may be used by licensed hunters to attract game animals or game birds by spraying or pouring the scent on the ground or other objects. Hunters may not create a scent station where the scent continues to be dispensed without the hunter's direct action, such as an automatic device, which drips or otherwise continues to dispense scent. Scents may not be used to attract bears. No scents other than glandular may be used for attracting animals, but other scents may be used to mask human odor. Hunters should be aware that the use of scents could attract bears (black or grizzly) to themselves!

Littering: A person convicted of littering while hunting, fishing, or camping may lose his or her license and privileges to hunt, fish, trap, or camp within Montana for a period of one year.

Motion-tracking Devices: It is illegal for a person to possess, while hunting, any electronic motion-tracking device that is designed to track the motion of animals and relay information on the animal's movement to the hunter. This includes, but is not limited to: remote operated camera or video devices; seismic devices; electronic trip wires, photo beam, or laser devices used to activate tracking or recording devices; thermal imaging devices; and satellite and radio-telemetry tracking devices. A radio-tracking collar attached to a dog when hunting mountain lion and/or bobcat is not considered a motion-tracking device or mechanism for the purposes of this regulation.

Motorized Vehicles: Hunters may not use a motorized vehicle (including OHVs) or aircraft to concentrate, drive, rally, stir-up, corral, or harass game animals. On public lands it is illegal to operate a motorized wheeled vehicle off legal routes (including game retrieval). All federally approved travel plans on public lands in Montana are hereby adopted by the FWP

Commission. Motorized travel in restricted areas in violation of any current travel plan or land use plan is prohibited during the hunting season. For further information, contact the appropriate land management agencies.

Night Vision Equipment: It is illegal to use night vision equipment or electronically enhanced light gathering optics for locating or hunting game.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV): In order to operate an OHV on public lands, the OHV must be registered. For use on most public roads, an OHV must be registered as a motor vehicle and display a license plate. For off-road use on legal trails, OHVs must be registered and display an OHV decal. Residents must register their OHV at their County Treasurer's office. Nonresidents must register their OHV in their home state or purchase a temporary Off-Highway Vehicle use permit from FWP. The permit is \$5 and expires on December 31 of the year issued. Examples of an OHV include but are not limited to: motorcycles, quadricycles (also known as 4-wheelers), dune buggies, amphibious vehicles, air cushion vehicles, and any other means of land transportation deriving motive power from any source other than muscle or wind.

Outfitters and Guides: It is illegal to hire an outfitter or guide not licensed by the Department of Labor and Industry. For information, call 406-841-2373.

Party Hunting: Party hunting is illegal in Montana. Each hunter must shoot his/her own animal. A hunter is prohibited from loaning or transferring his/her license to another person. It is illegal to use a license issued to another person. It is illegal to use one's hunting license to tag a big game animal killed by someone else. Party hunting, however, is different from a party application (see Special Considerations).

Predator and Nongame Hunting: Predators and nongame species, except prairie dogs, are unprotected by federal and/or state law or regulation and can be hunted in Montana year-round without a license by both resident and nonresident hunters. A conservation license, or a state school trust lands recreational use license, is required to hunt predators and nongame species on state school trust lands. Permission must be obtained to hunt on private land. For regulations on prairie dog hunting contact FWP at 406-444-2612.

Predators include coyote, weasel, (striped) skunk, and civet cat (spotted skunk). Nongame species are defined as any wild animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation in Montana. Examples include badger, raccoon, red fox, hares, rabbits, ground squirrels, marmots, tree squirrels, and porcupines.

Furbearers are protected species that may only be taken by residents with a valid trapping license during prescribed seasons. Furbearers include beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat, lynx, and swift fox.

Prohibited Methods of Taking: It is illegal for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird:

- From any self propelled (that is, motorized) or drawn vehicle. Even if the vehicle is not moving, hunters must be off or out of the vehicle. Holders of PTHFV are the exception to this.
- On, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, barrow pit or right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, in the State of Montana, MCA 61-1-202); or
- By the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare, salt lick, or bait, MCA 87-3-101. Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain or food sources so as to constitute a lure or attraction.

Restitution for Illegally Taken Wildlife: Under Montana law a person convicted, or who was charged and forfeited bond or bail, of illegally killing, taking, or possessing a trophy animal shall reimburse the state. The law sets the amount of restitution for each animal under MCA 87-1-115 as:

- Bighorn Sheep \$30,000
- Elk \$ 8,000
- Antlered Deer \$ 8,000
- Moose \$ 6,000
- Mountain Goat \$ 6,000
- Pronghorn Antelope \$ 2,000

The law specifically outlines minimum standards for a trophy under this regulation, but authorizes the FWP Commission to adopt more specific criteria.

For the purpose of assessing restitution for illegally taken wildlife under Montana Code 87-1-115, the following are considered “trophy” animals:

- **Antelope:**
 1. With at least one horn greater than 14 inches in length, as measured along the outside curve from base to tip.
- **Elk** (must meet all three criteria):
 1. At least six points on one antler, and
 2. A main beam length on each antler of at least 43 inches, and
 3. An inside spread of at least 36 inches, OR any elk with at least one six point antler and having a gross/green Boone & Crockett score of 320 points for greater.
- **Mule Deer** (must meet all three criteria):
 1. At least four points on one antler (excluding brow tine), and
 2. A main beam length on each side of at least 21 inches, and
 3. A greatest inside spread across the main beams of at least 20 inches, or any mule deer with at least one four-point antler and having a gross/green Boone & Crockett score of 160 points or greater.
- **White-tailed Deer** (must meet all three criteria):
 1. At least four points on one antler (excluding brow tine), and
 2. A main beam length on each side of at least 20 inches, and
 3. A greatest inside spread across the main beams of at least 16 inches, or any white-tailed deer with at least one four-point antler and having a gross/green Boone & Crockett score of 140 points or greater.
- A “point” as defined in these regulations is at least four inches long for elk and at least one inch long for deer, measured from base to tip. Boone & Crockett measuring procedures or standards are used for criteria measurement. The official measurements for the purpose of this regulation are those that are taken at the time of confiscation or seizure of the trophy. Any Boone & Crockett measurements will be considered final when taken by an official B&C scorer, regardless of drying time. If the skullcap of antlers or horns is broken in such a manner to render an official Boone & Crockett score invalid, three official B&C scorers will estimate a score. The three scores will be averaged and the average score used to determine trophy status in accordance with MCA 87-1-155.

Shooting of Alternative Livestock: An alternative livestock (game farm) licensee may not allow elk, deer, or other animals classified as alternative livestock to be shot on his/her facility for a fee or any other type of compensation.

Simulated Wildlife: It is illegal to discharge a firearm or other hunting implement at a simulated wildlife decoy in violation of any state statute or FWP commission rule regulating the hunting of the wildlife being simulated.

Transporting Horses and Mules in Montana: The Montana Department of Livestock requires a veterinary inspection certificate and an import permit prior to entry of horses or mules into Montana. A brand inspection certificate is required for movement within Montana. For further information call Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-2045.

Traps: Trapping is a lawful activity in Montana. It is illegal to disturb traps or trapped animals.

Two-way Communication: Two-way communication may not be used to:

- Hunt game animals or upland game birds, migratory birds or furbearers as defined in MCA 87-2-101 (8) (“Hunt” means to “pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess or capture.”), or
- Avoid game checking stations, FWP enforcement personnel, or to facilitate illegal activity.

When hunting mountain lions or bobcats with dogs, this rule applies when hounds are placed on tracks in a district open to lion or bobcat harvest. The rule does not prohibit the possession or use of two-way communication for safety or other legitimate purposes, nor does it prohibit the use of radio tracking equipment to locate hounds when hunting mountain lions or bobcats.

Weed Control and Weed-Free Hay: Montana requires use of certified weed-free hay, grain, straw, mulch, cubes and pelletized feed on wildlife management areas and federal lands. Contact the Montana Department of Agriculture at 406-444-5400. Infestations of noxious weeds reduce the amount of available food for wildlife and livestock.

Continued from page 19

Deer and Elk Regulations

Special Deer Licenses and Permits

Deer B Licenses: A deer B license is usually a license for antlerless mule deer or white-tailed deer, depending on the license type and hunting district. The deer B license allows you to kill a deer in addition to the deer you could harvest with your deer A license. There is no particular order in which the A and B licenses must be purchased or used. Most deer B licenses are available through the June 1 special drawing but some are available for purchase at License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing.

Single-Region Antlerless White-tailed Deer B License:

- A hunter may purchase only one single-region antlerless white-tailed deer B license per year.
- In the individual hunting district listings, the single-region antlerless white-tailed deer B licenses are listed as 002-10, 003-12, etc. In this case, 002-10 denotes an antlerless white-tailed B license valid in Region 2. The single-region antlerless white-tailed deer B license is in addition to other deer B licenses a person may obtain through a special drawing or purchase at License Providers. You must designate the region in which you will use the single-region antlerless white-tailed deer license at the time of purchase. You may only purchase one of these licenses.
- Licenses are available, beginning July 17, from License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing.
- Licenses are usually valid during the General Season, Oct 22 - Nov 26, but you should check the regulations for the hunting district in which you will hunt. These licenses also are usually valid during the Archery Only Season with the region, sex, species, weapons, and any other restrictions specified in the hunting district regulations.

Resident

- Region 2: 002-10. Most Region 2 HDs. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 3: 003-10. All Region 3 HDs, except Canyon Ferry WMA and Lake Helena WMA. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 4: 004-10. All Region 4 HDs, except hunting district 455. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 5: 005-10. All Region 5 HDs. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 6: 006-10. All Region 6 HDs. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 6: 699-00. All Region 6 HDs. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 7: 007-10. All Region 7 HDs. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 7: 007-11. 2nd WT B License. All 700 series districts. Not valid on CMR refuge.

Nonresident

- Region 2: 002-10. Most Region 2 HDs. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 3: 003-10. All Region 3 HDs, except Canyon Ferry WMA and Lake Helena WMA. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 5: 005-10. All Region 5 HDs. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 6: 698-00. All Region 6 HDs. See individual hunting district for valid dates.
- Region 7: 007-10. All Region 7 HDs. See individual hunting district for valid dates.

Single-Region Antlerless Mule Deer License:**Resident**

- Region 7: 007-13. All 700 series districts. Not valid on CMR refuge.

Resident

- Region 7: 007-14. 2nd MD B License. All 700 series districts. Not valid on CMR refuge.

Special Deer Permits: Hunters who receive a special deer permit must use it with a current deer A license. A deer permit does not allow you to take a second deer.

Hunters who receive a special deer permit valid for taking an antlered buck mule deer (with their deer A license) are restricted to taking only an antlered buck mule deer only in the district or portion of district specified on the permit. They may not hunt antlered buck mule deer anywhere else in Montana even if the General Season or Archery Only Season is open to mule deer buck hunting with a deer A license. This applies to all special deer permit areas, whether limited or unlimited, for antlered buck mule deer.

The following special deer permits are available through the June 1 special drawing to Residents and/or Nonresidents:

White-tailed Deer

- **R 4** 455-70

Mule Deer

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| • R 1 | 100-60 | 103-60 | 104-60 | 121-60 | 122-60 |
| | 123-60 | 130-50 | | | |
| • R 2 | 202-50 | 204-40 | 210-50 | 240-40 | 250-40 |
| | 261-50 | 270-50 | 281-40 | 291-50 | 291-51 |
| | 292-40 | | | | |
| • R 3 | 300-50 | 312-50 | 318-40 | 319-40 | 324-50 |
| | 335-40 | 339-40 | 343-40 | 380-40 | 390-40 |
| | 391-40 | 392-40 | | | |
| • R 4 | 441-50 | 455-70 | | | |
| • R 5 | 510-40 | 530-50 | | | |
| • R 6 | 652-50 | | | | |

Special Elk Licenses and Permits

A7 Elk License:

- An A7 license is a hunting license for an antlerless elk. The license allows the holder to hunt antlerless elk during specified times and in areas where the chances of taking an elk are relatively good. Many A7 licenses are valid primarily on private land and are designed specifically to help control elk numbers. In some areas, access may be difficult to obtain on private land.
- Hunters who receive an A7 elk license through the special drawing process must trade in their general elk license prior to the beginning of the elk Archery Only Season, because a hunter may not hold both a general elk license and an A7 elk license. Failure to trade the general elk license for the A7 license invalidates the A7 license awarded in the drawing.
- Hunters who trade in their general elk license give up the opportunity to hunt antlered or antlerless elk anywhere else in the state as specified in these regulations under "General Elk License". However, hunters who receive an A7 elk license through the special drawing may also apply for and receive an A9 (resident) or B12 (nonresident) second antlerless elk license.
- There are limited and unlimited A7 elk licenses. A limited A7 license is obtained through a special drawing, and the total number of licenses is limited. An unlimited A7 license can be purchased over-the-counter at FWP Offices for certain districts and there is no limit on the number of licenses awarded.

The following limited A7 elk licenses are available through the June 1 special drawing to residents and/or nonresidents:

- **R 2** 204-70 240-70 250-70 261-70
270-70 270-71 282-70

Second Antlerless Elk License: The A9 (resident) and B12 (nonresident) license is a second elk license and is valid for taking an additional antlerless elk in certain areas. To be eligible, a resident must have already purchased a general elk license. A nonresident must have already purchased or drawn a Big Game or Elk combination license. The A9/B12 elk licenses are designed to control elk numbers and many are only valid on private land. Each hunter may only possess one A9 or B12 license per license year.

There are limited and unlimited A9/B12 elk licenses. A limited A9/B12 license is obtained only through the special drawing, has a deadline date to apply for, and there is a limit on the total number of licenses available. Unlimited A9/B12 licenses have no limit on the number of licenses sold and are available from License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing. See individual hunting districts for details.

- **Limited A9 (resident) and B12 (nonresident) elk licenses:**
 - R 2** 283-80, 292-80
 - R 3** 398-80
 - R 4** 410-80, 411-80
 - R 5** 411-80, 580-80
 - R 6** 680-80, 690-80
- **Limited B12 (nonresident) elk licenses:** 498-80 valid in all hunting districts beginning with the number 4 (except 401, 410, 411, 412, 417, 420, 441, 445, 447, 448, and 455), and also valid in hunting districts 511 and 530.
- **Unlimited A9 (resident) elk licenses:**
 - R 4** 004-80 valid in all hunting districts beginning with the number 4 (except 401, 410, 411, 412, 417, 420, 441, 445, 447, 448, and 455), and also valid in hunting districts 511 and 530.

Special Youth Elk Hunts

- Youth 12-15 years of age may hunt elk as listed in the specific hunting district regulations without applying for a special elk permit through the drawing in the following hunting districts. Be sure to check specific hunting district regulations as youth hunting opportunities in some of the districts listed below may not include either-sex or antlered bull elk.

R 1	100	101	102	103	104	109	110	120	121
	122	123	124	130	132	140	141	150	151
R 2	200	201	202	203	204	210	211	212	213
	214	215	216	240	250	261	270	280	281
	283	285	291	292	293				
R 3	300	301	302	310	311	316	318	319	320
	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329
	330	331	332	333	335	339	340	341	343
	350	360	361	362	370	380	391	392	
R 4	401	403	410	412	413	415	417	418	426
	432	441	447	448	449	452	454		
R 5	520	540	560						

- Youth that are 15 years of age at the start of the general season, October 22, are eligible to hunt in the Special Youth Hunt areas even if they turn 16 years of age during the season.
- **Special Youth Elk Permits:** The following permits are available for 282-20, 313-12, 314-24, 621-00 (valid in HDs 621 and 622), 631-01, 680-00 and 690-00. To qualify, the applicant must:
 - be 12-15 years of age.
 - show proof of hunter education.
 - be accompanied by an adult and/or guardian who is at least 18 years of age.

Special Elk Permits: Elk ArchEquip Only permits with unlimited quotas (410-21, 417-21, 620-21 and 700-20) were formerly available only through a special drawing. They are now available for purchase over-the-counter from FWP License Providers. The license or permit still must be purchased by the June 1 deadline and the purchase excludes you from applying for the same species through the drawing.

The hunter still has the option of applying by the deadline through the drawing process instead of purchasing the unlimited elk permit from a License Provider.

Hunters who receive a special permit to hunt antlerless elk during all or any portion of the General Season are restricted both during the General Season and Archery Only Season, to taking only an antlerless elk in the district or portion of a district for which the permit is valid. This restriction applies for the entire season even if the permit is valid for only a portion of the General Season.

Permit holders are entitled to hunt elk, as specified in the big game hunting regulations, in all other elk hunting districts (except those districts or portions of district restricted to "hunting by special license or permit only") or, if the permit is valid for only a portion of the district, in all other portions of that hunting district (except those districts or portions of district restricted to "hunting by special license or permit only").

24-hour Closure

- In Administrative Region 2, elk hunting districts 250 and 270 and in Administrative Region 3, elk hunting district 313, may be subject to 24-hour closure for the antlerless portion of the general either-sex or brow-tined bull/antlerless elk season, if the antlerless quota is reached. If the antlerless quota is reached, the general season will revert to only the bull regulation until the end of the general season. Contact Region 2 and/or Region 3 Headquarters for updates.

12-hour Closure

- In Administrative Region 4, elk hunting district 424 may be subject to 12-hour closure for the antlerless portion of the general brow-tined bull or antlerless elk season, if the antlerless quota is reached. If the antlerless quota is reached, the general season will revert to only the brow-tined bull regulation until the end of the general season. Contact Region 4 Headquarters for updates.

Deer Drawing Statistics

The statistics on this page are from the 2005 Special Drawings and do not reflect the use of bonus points. They are meant to give you a relative comparison between area choices.

Note: The Nonresident quota (NQ_u) is not a separate drawing quota, but rather the maximum number of the total quota (RQ_u) that can be drawn by nonresidents. Until that maximum number of nonresidents is reached in that drawing, residents and nonresidents compete together for those licenses.

Key: LPT = License/Permit Type. First three digits most often represent the hunting district number.
RQu = Resident Quota
RAp = Total resident applications entered for 1st choice;
NQu= Nonresident Quota
NAp = Total nonresident applications entered for 1st choice.
Unl = Unlimited Quota

Deer Permits – 2005 Drawing Statistics					2005					2006				
					LPT	RQu	RAp	NQu	NAP	LPT	RQu	RAp	NQu	NAP
LPT	RQu	RAp	NQu	NAP	261-50	50	443	5	25	339-40	Unl	325	Unl	10
					270-50	150	3650	15	553	343-40	Unl	382	Unl	29
					281-40	Unl	315	Unl	41	380-40	Unl	1113	Unl	50
					291-50	100	601	10	44	390-40	Unl	51	Unl	18
					291-51	25	44	2	0	391-40	Unl	370	Unl	51
					292-40	Unl	632	Unl	45	392-40	Unl	666	Unl	51
					300-50	40	734	4	148	441-50	50	763	5	38
					312-50	125	749	12	20	455-70	50	636	5	36
					318-40	Unl	194	Unl	3	510-40	Unl	302	Unl	8
					319-40	Unl	182	Unl	63	530-50	650	529	65	100
260-60	500	463	50	0	324-50	50	407	5	152	652-50	100	766	10	95
					335-40	Unl	319	Unl	8					

Deer B Licenses – 2005 Drawing Statistics					LPT	RQu	RAp	NQu	NAP	LPT	RQu	RAp	NQu	NAP
LPT	RQu	RAp	NQu	NAP	313-01	50	38	5	1	406-00	400	116	40	6
					313-02	25	8	2	0	411-00	600	361	60	89
					314-00	225	129	22	9	412-00	600	311	60	64
					315-00	300	238	30	31	413-00	300	204	30	17
					315-01	250	74	25	10	416-00	15	16	1	7
100-00	200	446	20	26	317-00	75	44	7	4	417-00	300	134	30	35
101-00	400	355	40	13	318-00	50	110	5	0	418-00	250	57	25	37
102-00	400	421	40	7	319-00	150	216	15	10	419-00	125	67	12	11
103-00	200	468	20	9	320-00	150	120	15	2	421-00	250	90	25	6
104-00	200	364	20	7	320-01	300	76	30	11	423-00	75	25	7	2
109-00	150	94	15	3	320-02	150	17	15	7	426-00	550	221	55	50
120-00	300	383	30	5	321-00	25	26	2	3	432-00	100	80	10	13
121-00	400	594	40	54	322-00	600	404	60	13	441-00	150	99	15	8
122-00	50	205	5	9	322-01	300	66	30	12	444-00	250	111	25	11
123-00	50	96	5	9	323-00	50	28	5	10	445-00	500	340	50	59
124-00	100	140	10	1	324-00	50	55	5	17	447-00	400	276	40	48
130-00	500	511	50	19	324-01	50	10	5	5	448-00	75	16	7	7
132-00	300	177	30	1	325-00	450	172	45	34	450-00	150	23	15	6
200-00	200	149	20	17	325-01	150	11	15	1	471-00	100	69	10	7
200-01	100	37	10	2	326-00	500	92	50	13	498-00	0	0	300	229
201-00	350	457	35	16	326-01	300	4	30	3	500-00	100	219	10	17
201-01	50	15	5	2	328-00	25	26	2	1	502-00	200	212	20	2
202-00	250	296	25	8	329-00	50	50	5	13	510-00	150	89	15	7
202-01	100	95	10	2	330-00	250	61	25	17	511-00	150	76	15	18
202-02	50	25	5	1	330-01	100	11	10	3	520-00	300	167	30	17
204-00	50	117	5	5	331-00	25	41	2	0	530-00	250	172	25	22
210-00	200	115	20	4	331-01	150	241	15	21	530-01	125	53	12	11
212-00	50	103	5	5	331-02	25	4	2	1	560-00	350	65	35	21
212-01	150	99	15	14	332-00	50	47	5	13	570-00	100	166	10	38
213-00	50	38	5	2	333-00	175	141	17	3	575-00	500	409	50	52
215-00	50	74	5	4	333-01	300	144	30	15	580-00	250	155	25	46
216-00	20	49	2	5	333-02	225	53	22	5	590-00	350	341	35	38
240-00	50	180	5	4	333-03	300	24	30	0	597-00	600	522	60	24
260-20	300	600	30	11	335-00	150	229	15	2	598-00	2250	727	225	102

Elk Drawing Statistics

The statistics on this page are from the 2005 Special Drawings and do not reflect the use of bonus points. They are meant to give you a relative comparison between area choices.

Note: The Nonresident quota (NQu) is not a separate drawing quota, but rather the maximum number of the total quota (RQu) that can be drawn by nonresidents. Until that maximum number of nonresidents is reached in that drawing, residents and nonresidents compete together for those licenses.

Key: LPT = License/Permit Type. First three digits most often represent the hunting district number.
RQu = Resident Quota
RAP = Total resident applications entered for 1st choice;

NQu= Nonresident Quota
NAP = Total nonresident applications entered for 1st choice.
Unl = Unlimited Quota

Elk Permits – 2005 Drawing Statistics

LPT	RQu	RAp	NQu	NAP
100-00	100	392	10	23
101-00	10	68	1	0
101-01	15	120	1	1
103-00	100	768	10	17
104-00	100	319	10	12
109-00	25	146	2	2
120-00	25	112	2	1
121-00	550	656	55	29
121-01	50	229	5	4
121-02	5	24	0	0
122-00	100	398	10	6
123-00	150	201	15	10
124-00	50	76	5	0
132-00	5	20	0	0
141-00	25	33	2	1
200-00	100	164	10	7
200-01	75	51	7	0
201-00	325	319	32	20
201-01	25	15	2	0
202-00	50	203	5	11
202-01	150	199	15	5
202-02	100	38	10	3
203-00	250	243	25	12
203-01	10	45	1	0
204-70	125	157	12	1
204-71	75	95	7	0
210-00	200	94	20	7
210-01	125	122	12	13
210-02	50	72	5	1
210-03	50	97	5	2
211-00	150	178	15	7
212-00	200	185	20	14
212-01	150	170	15	17
212-02	50	91	5	6
213-00	200	112	20	2
213-01	50	69	5	1
213-02	50	61	5	0
214-00	100	109	10	5
215-00	125	211	12	11
215-01	125	164	12	13
215-02	50	155	5	1
216-00	50	49	5	3
216-01	200	47	20	3
216-02	25	47	2	0
240-70	125	60	12	1
240-71	175	149	17	0
250-70	100	202	10	15
250-71	50	18	5	0
260-00	50	13	5	0
261-70	275	74	27	1
261-71	125	70	12	0
270-70	150	228	15	13
270-71	250	217	25	3
280-00	250	33	25	37
281-00	400	408	40	18
282-20	1	37	0	0
282-70	150	462	15	0
283-00	300	295	30	5
283-01	150	37	15	1
285-70	100	123	10	4
285-71	300	41	30	0
291-00	200	245	20	17
291-01	50	105	5	2
292-00	300	717	30	28
292-01	0	5	0	0
292-02	0	0	0	0
293-00	200	390	20	17
293-01	50	48	5	0

LPT	RQu	RAp	NQu	NAP
298-70	0	0	0	0
299-70	200	156	20	4
302-10	300	283	30	83
311-00	0	11	0	0
313-00	100	623	10	12
313-10	15	524	1	26
313-11	48	1789	4	367
313-12	6	187	0	0
313-13	5	80	0	0
313-15	15	15	1	19
314-10	0	1	0	0
314-24	5	68	0	0
318-00	150	337	15	19
320-10	0	17	0	2
321-00	300	262	30	25
323-10	100	253	10	42
332-20	600	593	60	105
333-10	0	9	0	6
335-00	100	188	10	5
335-70	75	103	7	0
339-00	40	515	4	33
339-20	350	299	35	7
340-10	250	473	25	26
343-70	350	273	35	11
350-10	125	199	12	7
361-10	50	178	5	50
362-00	200	452	20	18
362-11	6	219	0	4
370-10	125	90	12	8
370-70	100	105	10	0
380-00	150	512	15	12
380-01	75	95	7	3
380-02	75	144	7	9
380-20	110	5630	11	354
380-70	150	361	15	7
391-00	250	263	25	24
392-00	100	111	10	4
392-01	300	582	30	7
401-00	100	215	10	4
401-20	30	371	3	30
410-00	1200	2210	120	52
410-20	75	3763	7	209
410-21	Unl	880	Unl	439
411-00	300	214	30	15
411-01	125	87	12	3
411-20	200	776	20	72
412-00	100	40	10	2
412-20	40	331	4	39
413-00	50	58	5	4
416-00	400	150	40	21
417-00	350	201	35	10
417-20	125	1010	12	72
417-21	Unl	150	Unl	48
418-00	150	36	15	7
420-20	80	347	8	39
421-00	100	118	10	0
421-01	100	103	10	0
422-00	100	140	10	0
425-00	20	50	2	1
425-01	25	60	2	0
425-02	30	114	3	3
425-20	2	165	0	1
426-00	30	14	3	4
426-20	10	74	1	0
432-00	100	66	10	5
441-00	150	171	15	4
441-20	30	356	3	16
445-20	40	170	4	15
446-00	75	70	7	7
446-01	250	282	25	0
447-00	100	137	10	11
447-20	75	1150	7	64
448-00	100	174	10	23

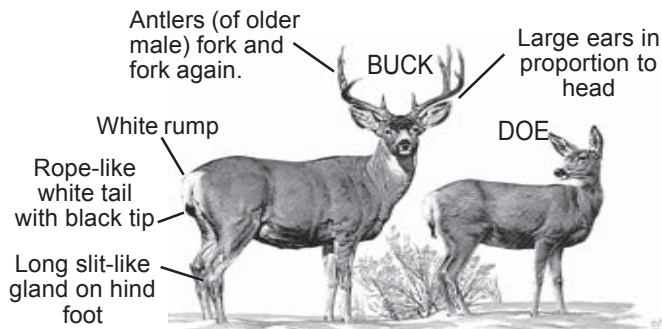
LPT	RQu	RAp	NQu	NAP
449-00	200	79	20	16
450-00	30	36	3	2
450-20	5	33	0	1
452-00	75	41	7	11
454-00	100	75	10	17
455-00	5	6	0	0
455-20	70	428	7	22
500-00	40	46	4	1
500-20	10	135	1	1
502-00	20	25	2	0
502-20	5	77	0	0
510-20	4	31	0	0
520-00	75	150	7	3
520-01	0	0	0	0
520-02	0	0	0	0
520-10	0	0	0	0
520-11	0	1	0	0
520-20	170	254	17	27
520-40	25	136	2	14
520-41	0	0	0	0
540-00	175	121	17	4
560-20	200	151	20	19
570-00	30	22	3	0
570-20	10	65	1	4
575-00	20	45	2	1
575-20	15	75	1	2
580-00	30	16	3	0
580-01	30	26	3	0
580-20	450	380	45	28
580-21	15	71	1	4
580-22	15	102	1	30
580-23	0	0	0	0
590-00	180	210	18	5
590-01	100	80	10	0
590-20	150	520	15	76
590-21	80	285	8	12
620-00	85	180	8	6
620-20	45	595	4	63
620-21	Unl	454	Unl	350
621-00	25	111	2	0
621-01	150	331	15	8
621-02	130	245	13	2
621-20	35	1148	3	79
622-00	100	239	10	18
622-20	30	966	3	85
631-00	70	298	7	24
631-20	15	764	1	68
631-21	200	241	20	30
632-00	30	88	3	3
632-20	10	319	1	28
632-21	100	121	10	9
690-00	0	4	0	0
690-20	10	671	1	32
690-21	15	237	1	22
700-20	Unl	91	Unl	112
798-00	350	244	35	26
798-20	150	1568	15	209
799-00	150	149	15	17
799-20	100	1120	10	143

A9 Elk License – 2005 Drawing Statistics

LPT	RQu	RAp	NQu	NAP
213-80	100	382	10	3
292-80	250	545	25	2
390-80	35	188	3	9
398-80	200	1443	20	22
498-80	0	0	300	112
680-80	25	39	2	2
690-80	75	320	7	3

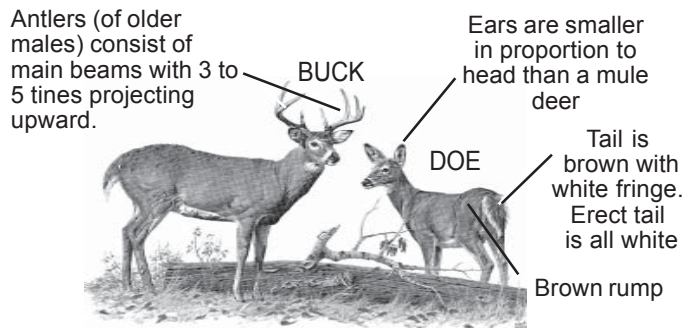
Deer

CHARACTERISTICS OF A MULE DEER



CAUTION: Antlers on yearling buck white-tailed and mule deer may look similar.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A WHITE-TAILED DEER



DEFINITIONS

Antlered Buck –

A deer with an antler or antlers at least four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull.



Antlerless –

A deer without antlers or with antlers less than four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull.

Either Species –

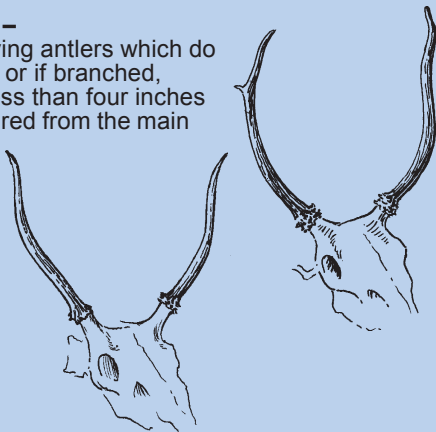
Mule deer or white-tailed deer.

Elk

Montana has some elk hunting districts with special regulations governing the type of bull elk that is legal. These diagrams and definitions are intended to assist the hunter in interpreting these special regulations.

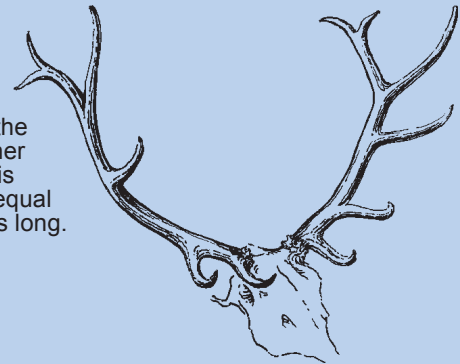
Spike Bull –

Any elk having antlers which do not branch, or if branched, branch is less than four inches long measured from the main antler.



Brow-tined –

Any elk having an antler or antlers with a visible point on the lower half of either main beam that is greater than or equal to four (4) inches long.



Antlered Bull –

Any elk having an antler or antlers at least four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull.

Antlerless –

A female or juvenile male with antlers less than four inches in length as measured from the top of the skull.

Antler Point Measurement –

Legal antler point must be four (4) inches or more length.

